

YEARBOOK OF GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

Volume 34

1999



The Society for

German-American Studies

Depicted on the front cover is the seal of Germantown, Pennsylvania, founded by Francis Daniel Pastorius in 1683. The seal was designed by Pastorius shortly before 1700. The three-fold cloverleaf with Latin motto denotes the three principal occupations among the citizens of Germantown: viticulture and wine-making, flax-growing, and textile production. The Latin motto reads *Vinum Linum et Textrinum* ("grapes/wine, flax/linen, and weaving mill/weaving"). Pastorius formulated the same motto in German as *Der Wein, der Lein und der Webeschrein*.

The Society for German-American Studies has elected to display the Germantown seal on its stationary and membership brochure as well as on the cover of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies* in commemoration of the earliest group settlement of German-speaking immigrants in North America. Our source for the image is Rudolf Cronau, *Drei Jahrhunderte deutschen Lebens in Amerika: Ruhmesblätter der Deutschen in den Vereinigten Staaten* (Berlin: D. Reimer, 1926), 69.

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General Information

The Society for German-American Studies was founded for the purpose of encouraging and advancing the scholarly study of the history, language, literature, and culture of the German element in North America. This includes coverage of the immigrants and their descendants from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other German-speaking areas of Europe. Members of the Society include representatives from various academic disciplines and others who share a common interest in German-American studies.

The *Yearbook* is published annually. The editor welcomes contributions in English, preferably, or German on all aspects of German-Americana from members of the Society. The manuscript should be prepared so that it can be read anonymously by the members of the Editorial Board, with the author's name appearing on a separate sheet only. For submission, four copies of the manuscript prepared in accordance with the University of Chicago Press *Manual of Style* are requested. All manuscripts and correspondence concerning the *Yearbook* should be addressed to the Editor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2127. Inquiries regarding book reviews for the *Yearbook* should be addressed to Timothy J. Holian, Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, MO 64507. The *Newsletter* appears four times a year. Items for the *Newsletter* should be submitted to La Vern J. Rippley, Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057.

The SGAS annual membership dues, which include subscription to the *Yearbook* and the *Newsletter*, are \$25.00 for regular members. Membership applications to the Society for German-American Studies should be made to the Treasurer/Membership Chair of the Society, William Roba, Scott Community College, 500 Belmont Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722. The Society for German-American Studies is open to membership from individuals, societies, libraries, and organizations.

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From the Editor

Continuing our commemoration of the impact of the revolutionary period of 1848-49 on German immigration to the United States and the contributions of those immigrants, we are pleased to present a selection of articles focusing on the Germans in the United States at the time of the American Civil War. Several of the current essays elaborate on issues raised by the 1999 publication of Steven Rowan's translation of Wilhelm Kaufmann's *Die Deutschen im amerikanischen Bürgerkriege*, originally published in Germany in 1911 (see Book Reviews). Stephen Engle explores the ever controversial and enigmatic Franz Sigel, whose infamous reputation as a general officer on the Union side stands in paradox to his enduring significance for the German Forty-Eighters and others of German descent in the United States. Studies of German-American attitudes regarding the secession crisis and the institution of slavery by Werner Steger—focusing on the German community in Richmond, Virginia, the future capital of the Confederacy—and by Christian Keller—examining the editorial positions of German newspapers in Eastern Pennsylvania, pitting Pennsylvania Dutch against the newly arrived *Deutschländer*—undermine the stereotype of the staunchly pro-Northern German-American. A contribution by Annette Hofmann highlights the significant sacrifices of the German-American Turners during the Civil War and their lasting influence in the American scene.

Among those articles not focusing primarily on the German-Americans and Civil War, Nancy Newman investigates the involvement of concert musician Henry Albrecht with the utopian communistic settlement of Icarians in Nauvoo, Illinois. Sam Mustafa offers evidence of very early German-American connections stemming from the "merchant culture" of the eighteenth century—linking the German seaports of the former Hanseatic League with the coastal cities of the newly formed United States. Manfred Zimmermann and Regine Wieder both report on discoveries inviting further research in the holdings of the German Society of Pennsylvania's library in Philadelphia. Zimmermann finds a treasure trove of detailed information on German immigrants, while Wieder sheds light on the German-American author Konrad Nies. Lawrence Klippenstein offers a survey of nearly two decades of Mennonite writings, ranging from local histories to fiction to dictionaries of Mennonite Low German or

Plautdietsch. Finally, a review essay by Antonius Holtmann of the 1987 publication of *Liwwät Böke* claims that this much touted set of texts and drawings by a "pioneer Low German woman" in Ohio must be viewed as a forgery.

Our readers will already have noticed the new appearance of the *Yearbook's* cover. The Executive Board of the SGAS decided that after nearly twenty years it was time for a face lift by adding a bit of color. More practical considerations—a sturdier cover—and a desire to emphasize the connection of the SGAS to the *Yearbook*, with the name of the Society and the seal of Germantown, Pennsylvania, designed by Pastorius on the front, resulted in the current cover. The editor and the Executive Board welcome any comments or suggestions from our readership in this regard.

As always, we want to especially acknowledge the contributions of the other members of the *Yearbook* "team." Our sincere appreciation for their good efforts goes to Timothy Holian, editor of book reviews, Jerry Glenn for his review of current German-American *belles-lettres*, the SGAS Bibliographic Committee headed by Giles and Dolores Hoyt, and last, but most certainly not least, the members of the SGAS Editorial Board, whose evaluations and suggestions maintain the high standards of this publication.

*Max Kade Center for German-American Studies
at the University of Kansas*

Lawrence, Kansas

January 2000